

Also, the men and women serving as AmeriCorps members with the Up2Us Coach Across America program are helping young people with a passion for sports to go to the low-income communities and reach out to children who may not have someone to be their coach or their mentor.

The entire staff of Up2Us and their volunteers are doing a great job. May God continue to bless them in their successful work for years ahead and in demonstrating that we can help our young people in constructive ways with sports and recreation. Indeed, advancing the lives of all of our youth is a team sport.

DEFENDING TRICARE

(Mr. RIGELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RIGELL. Mr. Speaker, I have the great privilege, and really the honor, of representing the largest concentration of active duty and retired military members in the country; and it's a true honor to defend those who wear our Nation's uniform and to speak boldly on behalf of our veterans.

Today, I rise to address a recent decision by the Department of Defense regarding TRICARE. The DOD has increased fees for those enrolling in TRICARE Prime after October 1, 2011. Mr. Speaker, this action is nothing less than a breach of trust between this great Nation and its veterans.

Career members of the uniformed services and their families make incredible sacrifices over the course of long careers defending our freedom. They honored their commitment and exceeded what they told us that they would do. They have served with distinction.

We need to honor our commitment to each of them. So I call on the Department of Defense to reverse its decision and to honor its promise to our veterans.

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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH AND CELL PHONE DRIVE

(Ms. CHU asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. CHU. Every 9 seconds, a woman is assaulted or beaten in the United States. Every day, more than three American women are murdered by their husbands or boyfriends. And a staggering 1.3 million women and almost 840,000 men are physically assaulted by an intimate partner every year.

For the last decade, in October, during Domestic Violence Awareness Month, I stood up with the shelters and hospitals in my district to support the women and men who escaped their abusers. Many of these victims escaped with literally only the clothes on their

backs. So together, we put on a donation drive of cell phones, clothing, and personal necessities to benefit victims of abuse. This drive will be going on throughout October, and you can support the effort by donating items at Kaiser offices throughout the 32nd Congressional District in California.

Together, we can and must do more to stop domestic violence.

THE DRAGON IS SNORTING FIRE

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Chinese dragon is snorting the fire of intimidation against our ally, Taiwan. To defend itself from the Chinese dragon's evil intentions, Taiwan protects itself with rusty swords—outdated F-16s. It also appears that by bullying, the United States has become timid under the Chinese dragon. The Beijing Government doesn't want us to sell new F-16 CDs to Taiwan—so we don't.

Further, the Chinese evil intentions of mischief are not limited to Taiwan. In the South China Sea, the talons of the Beijing dragon have initiated confrontation with Korea, the Philippines, Japan, and Vietnam. China claims sea areas that are in international waters or belong to other nations.

With all these belligerent actions occurring by China, it's not in our national interest to play Chamberlain and appease the Chinese dragon.

Sell the Taiwanese the new swords they need to defend themselves against the fiery dragon. Sell them American F-16 CDs. It is in our national interest to help Taiwan be armed to be the dragon slayer if it needs to be and defend itself against China.

And that's just the way it is.

BENEFITS OF AMERICAN JOBS ACT

(Mr. SIRES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SIRES. Mr. Speaker, the American Jobs Act, proposed by President Obama, is a clear path forward to rebuilding America by putting our country back to work, helping small businesses succeed, and providing tax relief for workers.

Specifically, this plan would put teachers, firefighters, police and first responders to work by creating jobs through investments in America's schools and infrastructure. It will also provide tax cuts that put money in the pockets of American workers and employers so they can grow and add jobs, as well as offer job training incentives to hire returning veterans and help the unemployed with pathways back to work.

The most critical element of the Jobs Act is that it requires immediate action to create American jobs and rebuild our economy. In conjunction with our Make It in America agenda, the

Jobs Act will provide the long-term tools for rebuilding the American manufacturing base and creating well-paying jobs into the future.

The Jobs Act invests in our future and assists struggling Americans now, all without adding a dime to the deficit.

Mr. Speaker, our number one priority needs to be job creation, and the American Jobs Act is the first step in that effort.

BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

(Mr. BROUN of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, 16 years ago, Congress failed to pass a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution by a single Senate vote. Back then, our national debt was about \$5 trillion. Today, our debt stands at nearly \$15 trillion, and our Democrat leadership is showing no signs of slowing down their outrageous spending.

Imagine what the state of the economy could look like if it weren't strapped down by that extra \$10 trillion worth of debt. Imagine how much brighter the future of our children and grandchildren could be without the threat of having to repay the money that Washington has wasted. Imagine how mom-and-pop shops could be growing, hiring and expanding if looming tax increases weren't a factor in their business plans.

Enough is enough. Missing another opportunity to balance the budget is not a mistake that we can afford to make twice. That's why I authored my balanced budget amendment, so that we can stop the spending and start paying down our debt.

I urge all of my colleagues to become cosponsors of my amendment, which is the most conservative and effective approach to balancing the budget.

AMERICAN JOBS ACT

(Mr. BACA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, in my congressional district, the unemployment rate is 17 percent; and in San Bernardino County, it's well above 14 percent.

My constituents need a bold plan of action, not more gridlock in Washington, D.C. They want us to come together and take action. The American Jobs Act provides a clear path forward to put our country back to work.

This bill contains bipartisan ideas that will put teachers, firefighters, first responders, and cops back to work right now, provide tax cuts that put money in the pockets of working Americans right now, give businesses job-creating tax breaks right now, and provide a boost to our economy right now. And this bill is fully paid for, not adding a dime to our deficit.

The Republican Party has supported these ideas in the past. It's time to put